



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality • 2101 East Jefferson Street • Rockville, MD 20852

Funding Opportunities

Introduction

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), formerly the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, is the Federal Government's focal point for research to enhance the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care services and access to those services. AHRQ accomplishes these goals through the establishment of a broad base of scientific research on the organization, financing, and delivery of health care services, and through the promotion of improvements in clinical practice.

This Funding Opportunities fact sheet describes AHRQ's research agenda and the financial assistance mechanisms used for research projects. The fact sheet focuses primarily on opportunities for investigator-initiated research grants, but brief information also is included on contracts.

Research Agenda

AHRQ's research projects examine the availability, quality, and costs of health care services; ways to improve the effectiveness and appropriateness of clinical practice, including the prevention of disease; and other areas of health services research, such as services for persons with HIV infection. AHRQ uses mechanisms of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to carry out research projects, demonstrations, evaluations, and dissemination activities.

AHRQ also supports small grants, conference grants, and training through dissertation grants and National Research Service Awards to institutions and individuals.

The vast majority of AHRQ grants and cooperative agreements are investigator-initiated. Areas of specific interest for grants and cooperative agreements are announced in the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts*. These may be areas of ongoing interest identified in program announcements (PAs) or targeted one-time activities identified in requests for applications (RFAs).

Financial Mechanisms

Public and private nonprofit entities and individuals are eligible to receive AHRQ grants (and both nonprofit and for-profit organizations may apply for cooperative agreements). A grant is a financial mechanism for

providing discretionary funds and/or direct assistance to carry out approved research activities.

When a grant is awarded, no substantial Federal involvement with recipients is anticipated during performance of the research activity. A cooperative agreement is a type of grant; however, with this mechanism, a substantial Federal scientific and programmatic involvement with the awardee(s) is anticipated during performance of the project.

AHRQ also awards contracts for specific research activities. A contract is an agreement, initiated by the Government, that is used to acquire an identifiable product or service, under specified terms.

Grants Process

AHRQ announces research grant opportunities through program announcements (PAs) and requests for applications (RFAs). A PA is a formal statement that invites applications on new or ongoing research activities, usually with multiple application receipt dates. An RFA is a formal statement that invites grant or cooperative agreement applications in a well-defined scientific area, with one application receipt date.

Grant applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit by a peer review group with appropriate expertise. Funding decisions are based on the quality of the proposed project, availability of funds, and program balance among research areas.

A list of current AHRQ research grant opportunities, including program contacts, is provided on an attached chart. Potential applicants should refer to the relevant announcement(s), or contact the appropriate program contact, for information such as eligibility requirements, mechanism of support, research objectives, application procedures, and review considerations.

The AHRQ Grants Management Officer is responsible for all aspects of business management related to the award and administration of research grants. Inquiries should be directed to:

Mable L. Lam, Grants Management Officer
Telephone: (301) 594-1844

AHRQ awards disability and minority supplements to ongoing grants that have at least 2 years of committed support remaining in the project period. These supplements are used to train and provide health services research experience to persons with disabilities or to



minorities, or to work on minority health issues. For more information, principal investigators should contact their Federal project officer, or the Grants Management Officer.

Contracts

AHRQ awards contracts to carry out a wide variety of directed health services research and administrative activities. The availability of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for AHRQ contracts is announced in the *Commerce Business Daily (CBD)*, published by the U.S. Department of Commerce to announce Federal contract opportunities and awards. In most cases, RFPs are released 15 days after the date of the announcement in the *CBD*. Potential offerors normally have 45 to 60 days to prepare and submit proposals.

Proposals received in response to these RFPs are peer reviewed for scientific and technical merit by a panel of experts in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified in the RFP. Additional information on AHRQ's contract program is available from:

Jackie Carey, Office of Management
Telephone: (301) 594-1445

AHRQ may use contracts for activities such as outcomes studies, the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (formerly the National Medical Expenditure Survey), information dissemination, and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

AHRQ's solicitation for SBIR proposals is included in a Public Health Service-wide RFP, "Solicitation of the Public Health Service for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Contract Proposals," administered by the Research Training and Special Program Office of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To receive the SBIR RFP, contact the NIH Special Program Office, Building 31, Room 5B44, Bethesda, MD 20892, telephone: (301) 496-1968. Further information on AHRQ's SBIR program is available from:

SBIR Coordinator
Office of Research Review, Education, and Policy
Telephone: (301) 594-1398

AHRQ Policies

Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Research Study Populations Involving Human Subjects

It is the policy of AHRQ that women and members of minority groups be included in all AHCPR-sponsored research projects involving human subjects, unless a clear and compelling rationale and justification are provided that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy resulting from the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Section 492B of Public Law 103-43) supercedes and strengthens NIH's previous policies (Concerning the Inclusion of Women in Study Populations, and Concerning the Inclusion of

Minorities in Study Populations), which were in effect since 1990 and which AHRQ had adopted. The new NIH policy contains provisions that are substantially different from the 1990 policies.

All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Guidelines on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research," published in the *Federal Register* on March 28, 1994 (FR 59 14508-14513), and printed in the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* on March 11, 1994, Volume 23, Number 10. AHCPR follows the revised NIH Guidelines, as applicable.

Applicants may obtain copies of the Guidelines from those sources. AHRQ program staff also may provide information concerning this policy.

Smoking

The Public Health Service (PHS) strongly encourages all grant and contract recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. In addition, Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities in which regular routine education, library, day care, health care, or early childhood development services are provided to children. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people. AHRQ program staff also may provide additional relevant information concerning this policy.

Additional Information

AHRQ grant application kits, including all currently active RFAs and PAs, may be obtained from the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse (see next paragraph for address and telephone numbers).

AHRQ grant announcements, based on PAs and RFAs, are available through AHRQ InstantFax by calling (301) 594-2800 from a fax machine with a telephone handset. AHRQ often provides information on its grant announcements and RFPs for contracts in its monthly publication, *Research Activities*. To be placed on the mailing list to receive *Research Activities*, contact:

AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 8547
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Toll-free telephone: 800-358-9295
TDD toll-free telephone: 888-586-6340

Copies of recent grant announcements are available on the AHRQ Web site, <http://www.ahrq.gov>

AHRQ Research Opportunities

Announcements	NIH Guide Pub. Date	NIH Guide No.	AHRQ Program Contact
Requests for Applications			
Violence Against Women: Evaluating Health Care Interventions	02/18/00 Closes 04/27/00	HS-00-006	Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research Charlotte Mullican tel. 301-594-0382
Primary Care Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs)	01/21/00 Closes 04/27/00	HS-00-004	Center for Primary Care Research David Lanier tel. 301-594-1489
Making Quality Count for Consumers & Patients	01/05/00 Closes 03/24/00	HS-00-002	Center for Quality Measurement & Improvement Christine Crofton tel. 301-594-2003
Systems-Related Best Practices To Improve Patient Safety	12/16/99 Closes 04/27/00	HS-00-007	Center for Quality Measurement & Improvement Marge Keyes tel. 301-594-2155
Translating Research Into Practice II	12/16/99 Closes 04/27/00	HS-00-008	Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research Joanne Book tel. 301-594-4039
Effectiveness of Children's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment	06/13/97 Closed	HS-98-004	No longer active (See HSR, PA: 98-049)
NIH Predoctoral Fellowship Awards for Minority Students	02/25/00	PA-00-069	Karen Rudzinski tel. 301-594-3602
Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award	11/10/99	PA-00-010	Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy Div. of Research Education tel. 301-594-1452
Independent Scientist Award	09/08/99	PAR-99-164	Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
Cancer Surveillance Using Health Claims-Based Data System (Co-sponsor with NCI & NIDCR)	11/12/98	PA-99-015	Center for Organization & Delivery Studies Bernard Friedman tel. 301-594-6819
Economic Evaluation in HIV & Mental Disorders Prevention	11/06/98	PA-99-001	Center for Primary Care Research tel. 301-594-1357

Announcements	NIH Guide Pub. Date	NIH Guide No.	AHRQ Program Contact
AHRQ Health Services Research: Program Announcement	03/26/98	PA-98-049	See Program Announcement (AHCPR Pub. No. 98-0018) for program contacts
AHRQ Small Project Grant Program (Also See Addendum)	02/23/96 (01/29/99)	PAR-96-028	See Addendum (AHCPR Pub. No. 96-R040) for program contacts
Grants for Health Services Dissertation Research	09/25/98	PAR-98-111	Dissertation Program Coordinator tel. 301-594-1449
Small Grant Program for Conference Support	01/26/96	PAR-96-015	Office of Health Care Information, User Liaison Program tel. 301-594-6668
Decision-Making Processes in Women's Health (Co-sponsor with NINR & ORWH)	01/13/95	PA-95-020	Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research tel. 301-594-1485
Health Services Research on Clinical Preventive Services (Co-sponsor with NIAAA & NIDR)	06/24/94	PA-94-076	Center for Primary Care Research tel. 301-594-1357
National Research Service Award: Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships (Also See Notice)	10/16/98 12/23/99	PA-99-005 OD-00-008	Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
Economic Studies in Cancer Prevention, Screening, and Care (Co-sponsor with NCI and NIDCR)	11/12/98	PA-99-014	Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research Yen-pin Chiang tel. 301-594-4035
Home Health Care and Supportive Services for Older Adults (Co-sponsor with NIA & NCNR)	05/15/92	PA-92-079	Center for Primary Care Research tel. 301-594-1357
Health Services Research on Rural Health	05/01/92	PA-92-071	Center for Primary Care Research tel. 301-594-1357
Causes and Effects of Elderly Population Concentrations (Co-sponsor with NIA)	03/27/92	PA-92-062	Center for Primary Care Research tel. 301-594-1357
Effective Dissemination of Health and Clinical Information and Research Findings	03/13/92	PA-92-051	No longer active (See HSR, PA: 98-049)
Health Services Research Conference Grants (Large grants only)	05/31/91	PA-91-061	New announcement being developed

Announcements	NIH Guide Pub. Date	NIH Guide No.	AHRQ Program Contact
General Policy Notices			
Modular Grant Application and Award Procedures - Not Applicable to AHRQ	06/07/99		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1404
Inactivation of Selected AHRQ Program Announcements	05/11/99		Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research tel. 301-594-1485
Notice of AHRQ Special Emphasis Area: Investigator-Initiated Grants	12/24/98		Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research tel. 301-594-1485
Future Year Commitments on AHRQ Grant Awards	05/22/98		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
Advance Approval of Unsolicited Applications That Request More Than \$500,000 Direct Costs in Any One Year	08/22/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
New AHRQ Policy on Limiting Discussion of Noncompetitive Applications ("Triage")	08/22/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
AHRQ Opportunity for Cooperative Research and Development Agreements and Other Public-Private Partnerships	08/01/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
AHRQ Policy on the Inclusion of Children in Health Services Research	05/09/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
New AHRQ Policy on the Submission of Revised Applications	04/11/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
AHRQ Streamlines Process for Summary Statements of Reviews of Grant Applications	04/11/97		Office of Research Review, Education, & Policy tel. 301-594-1449
To obtain recent AHRQ published grant announcements and notices, visit the AHRQ Web site, http://www.ahrq.gov/ For application kits, as well as copies of grant announcements and notices, contact the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse, tel. 800-358-9295.			